

AIRGRAM

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TO

Department of State

INFO

DHAHRAN

CHUSMTM

COMIDEASTFOR

USMTM AIR FORCE SECTION USMTM ARMY SECTION

DEPT PASS:

See list on page five

FROM

Amembassy JIDDA

DATE: March 24, 1964

SUBJECT:

Joint Weeka No. 11

REF

Table of Contents

POLITICAL/ECONOMIC

3. SAG Ambassador to Washington
4. Garland Hopkins Visit
5. Desalinization Survey Team Arrives
7. Television Project Gets Underway

MILITARY

Negative

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. British and US Bases in Libya
2. De Gaulle's Visit to Mexico and Latin America
3. Military Coups and CIA

GROUP 4

Downgraded at 3-year intervals
Declassified after 12 years

FORM 4-62

DS-333

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Drafted by:

RW Murphy/CE Martinson/Draper/Glane/ISabbagh

Clearances:

3-24-64

NGThacher, Counselor of Embassy

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Page Two
A-333, Jidda

POLITICAL/ECONOMIC

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SAG Ambassador to Washington. The Embassy has learned informally that Ibrahim al-Suwayyil, currently serving as Minister of Agriculture and a former Saudi Foreign Minister, will quite probably be nominated as Ambassador to the United States succeeding 'Abd Allah al-Khayyal. No official action has yet been taken, however. Former Ambassador Khayyal was named last week to head the SAG's Public Works Agency. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. Garland Hopkins Visit. The controversial chairman of the Citizen's Committee on American Policy in the Near East, Dr. Garland Hopkins, visited Jidda briefly March 20-21 enroute Riyadh. Hopkins stated he had been invited to visit the Kingdom by the SAG and that all Arab governments had been notified of his tour by Arab League SYG Hassouna. Saudi officials in Jidda however professed to have had no advance word of his arrival and to the Embassy's knowledge had no contact with him. In conversation with Ambassador Hart, Hopkins repeated his assertions made earlier, to US Ambassadors in Beirut, Amman and Damascus that he had been misquoted by the Libyan press when it reported he had accused US companies operating in the Near East of being pro-Israeli. Ambassador noted that however distorted Hopkins' remarks in Tripoli may have been by Libyan media, they carried flavor of attacking US business for exploiting Arabs and contributed nothing to Arab welfare. Hopkins stated he continued to feel deeply that Aramco and similar US companies ^{were} only visible source funds to help organizations such as the Citizens Committee to tell Arab side of story in election year America, counterbalancing one-sided story issued by "massive Zionist propaganda machine." Hopkins was received by Crown Prince Faysal March 23. (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. Desalinization Survey Team Arrives. A five-man US Department of Interior survey team arrived this past week to carry out preliminary economic feasibility studies of the contemplated seawater desalinization and combined power-generating plant in Jidda. SAG greeted the team's arrival with considerable interest and enthusiasm, the shortage of water and high price of electricity being among the most familiar complaints of the citizenry. Team members were presented to Crown Prince Faysal by the Ambassador. The Saudi coordinator of the visit has been Prince Muhammad bin Faysal, son of the Crown Prince, and the first Royal Family university graduate. Prince Muhammad's interest in the project, as revealed in his 1963 visit to Washington, stimulated the Interior Department's response. (UNCLASSIFIED)

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7. Television Project Gets Underway. On March 19, a team of experts, including representatives of the United States Army Corps of Engineers and RCA, completed their television site survey in Jidda and departed for Riyadh to carry out a similar survey. The team is expected to proceed to Leghorn, Italy, by March 23 to work out with the Corps of Engineers headquarters there the detailed schedule for the installation of the two temporary television stations.

In the meantime Minister of Information Hujaylan was reported due in New York April 2, where he will discuss range of television problems with RCA and US Government officials. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

Negative

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. British and US Bases in Libya. Substantial coverage was given by the Saudi news media to the Libyan Prime Minister's statement calling for termination of UK and US bases in Libya. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: Saudis seem to be riding on the wave of Nasir's appeal to the Libyans to terminate foreign bases on their soil. Foreign presence and influence in the Arab countries is one of the topics the Arabs vie among themselves, the louder the better, to terminate. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

2. De Gaulle's Visit to Mexico and Latin America. The news of this visit was utilized by the Saudi press, but not radio, to point out how General De Gaulle was outmaneuvering the US in its "own back yard," to secure popularity in Latin America and to snatch leadership of the Free World away from the US. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. Military Coups and CIA. In al-Nadwa, March 16 Hamid Mutawi'a (General Manager) wrote a long article attempting to ascribe the various coups in the world, including those in Near Eastern countries and Africa, to the workings of CIA. The author used Zanzibar as an example and urged the US Congress to look into CIA activities first because they tend to set up military dictatorships which ultimately will be harmful to US interests and second because essentially they are contrary to US principles. (UNCLASSIFIED)

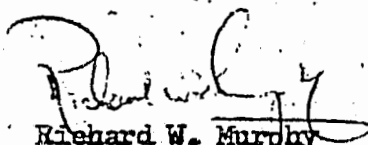
Comment: March 19 the PAO in a session with Mutawi'a criticized the article. Mutawi'a admitted that he had been inspired (sic) to write it by Tully's book which he had recently read on the CIA. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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Page Five
A-333, Jidda

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For the Charge d'Affaires ad interim:


Richard W. Murphy
Second Secretary of Embassy

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KHARTOUM, KUWAIT, LONDON FOR CINCELM, RABAT, TAIZ, TEHRAN, PARIS,
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